

Serial No.: 09/689,722

REMARKS

The courteous interview granted by Examiner Lee on June 9, 2004, is noted with appreciation. At the interview the prior art references to Woodall and JP 62-204908 were discussed in connection with a proposal to amend claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5. The examiner requested that the format of the claim be revised for clarification, and this has now been done. In addition, headings for the various sections of the application have been provided. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Woodall in view of JP 62-204908. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Woodall is directed to manufacturing a synthetic material that simulates marble. The process taught by Woodall is that of applying a synthetic material to a mold and applying pigment to simulate the veins to the synthetic material in a "closely controlled way." The specific techniques disclosed are the use of a feather, the use of a stick, or the use of a syringe. It is clear from the Woodall teachings that the objective of the process is to depict the marbling or veins by precisely placing pigment in a desired place to simulate a vein. Thus, the proposed use of a syringe would be understood by those of skill in the art to be a controlled application of a line of pigment to the molded layer.

JP 62-204908 teaches that colored fibers may be used in a molded product by first mixing the fibers with, and dispersing them into, unsaturated resin. The resin with the fibers therein is then loaded into a mold.

Thus, the teachings of Woodall conflict with those of JP 62-204908 because, *inter alia*, placement of the fibers in JP 62-204908 is not a closely controlled process, as it is in Woodall. It

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would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Woodall with those of JP 62-204908 because one essentially teaches away from the other.

Furthermore, JP 62-204908 does not teach the application of lengths of fiber to the interior of a mold through a probe. It teaches mixing the fibers with the resin and then applying the resin with the fibers therein to the mold. These are very different techniques.

Thus, it is submitted that the proposed combination would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art and that even if JP 62-204908 were combined with Woodall, which it is suggested would be contrary to the suggestions in the art, the result would not be the claimed invention because there is no application of fibers through a probe.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any matter remains outstanding.

All necessary extensions of time are requested. Please charge any necessary fees and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully Submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



Conrad J. Clark
Reg. No. 30,340

Suite 600
1750 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-835-1111
202-835-1755 (fax)
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